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SUBJECT—

TITLE

NINETEENTH ANNUAL SURVEY OF THE MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE INFESTATION

ON THE COEUR D'ALENE NATIONAL FOREST

1947

Forest Insect Laboratory

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

INDEX NO.—

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FOREST INSECT
LABORATORY

Nineteenth Annual Survey of the Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation
on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest
1947

The Yellow Dog, Downey and Sissons Units continue to support the heaviest infestation on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest. Other areas also showing infestation are given in the following pages but none of these have situations over the units as a whole which may be considered alarming.

Bumblebee Unit.

Light, well scattered infestation is present over the whole unit. This area has recently been made accessible by a fine road and sales of logs along the right of way already have been made. In addition it is understood that about a section of timber in this drainage is to be sold. Because of the general healthy condition of this timber it could probably have been "kept in storage" for a number of years yet with little mountain pine beetle loss. Data for the area is as follows:

Bumblebee Unit	3040 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.127
Percent of stand infested	.72
Estimated number of infested trees	386
Survey sample	23.7
Percent of area sampled	.78

Laverne Creek Unit.

A light per acre infestation is present on this drainage and seems to be pretty well scattered. Percent of stand affected is not high but bears watching for any increas.

Laverne Creek Unit	2560 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.158
Percent of stand infested	.61
Estimated number of infested trees	404
Survey sample	31.7
Percent of area sampled	1.24

Upper Cougar Unit.

The amount of infestation in this and the Lower Cougar Unit is about the same. Data for the unit is as follows:

Upper Cougar Unit	3700 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.162
Percent of stand infested	.62
Estimated number of infested trees	599
Survey sample	24.6 Acres
Percent of area sampled	.67

Correction of the above data for late attacks will undoubtedly increase the infestation but the amount per acre will still probably be light.

Lower Cougar Unit.

This unit supports a light infestation per acre for the current year but percent of stand attacked is sufficiently high to warrant annual checking of the area. It is also possible that a correction for the current season for late attacks may reveal a considerably higher loss for 1947. Data for the area follows:

Lower Cougar Unit	3600 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.189
Percent of stand infested	.73
Estimated number of infested trees	680
Survey sample	37.1 Acres
Percent of area sampled	1.03

Infestation seems to be fairly general over the whole unit.

Can Creek Unit.

Only a light infestation of the mountain pine beetle is indicated by the data secured from this unit.

Can Creek Unit	1710 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.06
Percent of stand infested	.027
Estimated number of infested trees	103
Survey sample	16.7 Acres
Percent of area sampled	.98

Taylor's Unit.

Only a light infestation is present on this unit, with analysis of the data indicating the following conditions:

Taylors Unit	2800 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.068
Percent of stand infested	.43
Estimated number of infested trees	190
Survey sample	14.8
Percent of area sampled	.53

West Fork of Steamboat Mtn.

No infestation was noted in the strips run on this unit. While there is undoubtedly a light infestation present it is insufficient to cause concern. Data secured gave the following figures:

West Fork of Steamboat Unit	3960 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	None
Percent of stand infested	None
Estimated Number of infested trees	None
Survey sample	33.1
Percent of area sampled	.84

Clay Creek Unit.

A light, general infestation per acre seems spread over this unit. The percent of stand infested is heavier than the amount per acre would indicate but is still sufficiently light not to be alarming. The data for the area follows:

Clay Creek Unit	2320 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.205
Percent of stand infested	.50
Estimated number of infested trees	476
Survey sample	24.4
Percent of area sampled	1.05

It is suggested that logging on the nearby East Fork Unit may be "absorbing" much of the mountain pine beetle population from this area.

Forks - Cabin Unit.

Much of the Little East Fork drainage of this unit has been cut over (1900 Acres) and data was secured chiefly for the area there there has been no cutting to the present pine. However, for an area selectively cut in sections 14, 13, 23, and 24, three strips were run to observe losses in this type of cutting. The data for the main area is as follows:

Forks - Cabin Unit	3540 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.221
Percent of stand infested	.60
Estimated number of infested trees	782
Survey sample	27.1 Acres
Percent of area sampled	.76

The infestation on this unit seems to have decreased materially, to the point where it is comparatively light.

Selectively cut Area.

Strip run in this small area amounted to 17.2 acres. The infestation in the area represented is quite light and found to be as follows:

Cut-over Area	About 700 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.116
Percent of stand infested	.26
Estimated number of infested trees	81
Survey sample	17.2
Percent of area sampled	2.5

Flat Creek Unit.

The Flat Creek Unit data indicates no infestation present but observation from vantage points revealed well-scattered red tops in the upper part of the drainage.

Flat Creek Unit	7800 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.0
Percent of stand infested	.0
Estimated number of infested trees	None
Survey sample	18.6 Acres
Percent of area sampled	.24

Mountain pine beetle activity in this unit is too low to cause any present concern.

The data which follows is for units which have sufficient infestation to warrant concern as to the situation. The data as to amount of infestation is considered to be conservative, as late summer attacks were not complete at the time of the survey. No attempt has been made to correct the data for this additional infestation.

Sissons Unit.	4,700 Acres
Average infested trees per acre	.26
Percent of stand infested	.82
Estimated number of infested trees	1200
Survey sample in acres	140.9
Percent of area sampled	3.00

Terrain on this area is steep and parts of it would entail considerable lost time in travel for treating crews because of its relative inaccessibility.

The infestation on this unit, while, distributed over the entire unit, is somewhat concentrated on the lower slopes of the eastern part of the unit on about 3120 of the total 4700 acres of the unit. On this smaller area it is believed the final figure will indicate approximately 1000 infested trees.

North Yellow Dog Unit.

Infestation on this unit seems to be on the increase. This unit has shown decided fluctuations in amount of recorded infestation. Data for 1947 is given in the following tabulation:

North Yellow Dog Unit.	840 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.32
Percent of stand infested	.95
Estimated number of infested trees	267
Survey sample	15.7 Acres
Percent of area sampled	1.9

A slight concentration of infestation was noted in the NW 1/4 of section 10, but a view of the area from a plane failed to reveal any serious condition.

Yellow Dog Creek Unit.

This unit shows the effect of the recent control work in the comparatively light infestation but there is still an active infestation present. Data for the unit is as follows:

Yellow Dog Creek Unit.	4120 Acres
Average Number of infested trees per acre	.18
Percent of stand infested	.3
Estimated number of infested trees	742
Survey sample in acres	50.0
Percent of area sampled	1.2

Infestation is pretty well scattered over this unit with the heaviest concentration on the more exposed slopes.

Losses seem to be increasing in the upper parts of this drainage, according to the writer's impression.

Downey Creek Unit.

Infestation is general but fairly light over this entire unit. Concentration of loss was noted on all drier more exposed slopes, especially those facing to the east , to the south, or to the west. It is the writer's belief that losses are increasing in the upper parts of the Downey Creek drainage whereas in former years they were more concentrated in the lower part of the drainage. Data is summarized as follows:

Downey Creek Unit.	4160 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.27
Percent of stand infested	.51
Estimated number of infested trees	1123
Survey sample in acres	40.7
Percent of area sampled	1.00

Heavy past losses in white pine in the lower part of this drainage seem to indicate the same condition is developing in the hitherto not seriously damaged stands in the upper part of the drainage. Especially is this beginning to be apparent in the northeast 1/4 of section 28 between the east and west forks of Downey Creek.

Indian Creek Unit I.

No infestation was found on the strip run on the main Indian Creek Unit. Data secured was as follows:

Indian Creek Unit I	1420 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	None
Percent of stand infested	None
Estimated number of infested trees	None
Survey sample	5.3 Acres
Percent of area sampled	.37

Although no infestation was recorded, scattering red tops were noted on the area from Grizzly Ridge.

Indian Creek Unit II.

A heavy infestation is still present on this unit. The data secured is as follows:

Indian Creek Unit II	240 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	2.50
Percent of stand infested	3.93
Estimated number of infested trees	600
Survey sample	4.4 Acres
Percent of area sampled	1.83

The brood in these trees was quite heavy and the infestation for that reason may be expected to continue to cause heavy losses. Already about 40 percent of the white pine has been killed. The intensity of the infestation indicates the need for control.

Terrain on this 240 acres is rough and steep and not readily accessible.

Yellow Dog River Unit.

This unit shows .164 trees per acre infestation with the data yielding the following figures:

Yellow Dog River Unit.	2140 Acres
Average number of infested trees per acre	.194
Percent of stand infested	.5
Estimated number of infested trees	415
Survey sample in acres	31.0
Percent of area sampled	1.45

Infested trees seem pretty well distributed over the entire unit.

A tabulation follows which shows in condensed form the data for the various units.

Coeur d'Alene
1947

Unit	Trees per Acre	Percent of Stand	Percent Sampled
Bumblebee	.127	.72	.75
Laverne	.158	.61	1.24
Upper Cougar	.162	.62	.67
Lower Cougar	.189	.73	1.03
Indian Cr. Unit I	None		.37
Indian Cr. Unit II	2.50	3.93	1.83
Can Cr.	.06	.027	.98
Taylors	.068	.43	.53
West Fork	None		.84
Clay Cr.	.205	.50	1.05
Forks - Cabin	.221	.60	.76
Flat Cr.	.0		.24
Sissons	.35	1.0	1.4
Downey	.26	.47	1.1
North Yellow Dog	.32	.95	1.9
Yellow Dog Cr.	.18	.3	1.2
Yellow Dog River	.164	.4	1.4

8,048 INFESTED TREES